



INVESTIGATION OF INSTITUTIONAL AND ELDER ABUSE

FC No.: 672

Date: 08-30-02

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I. Policy

The policy of this department is to ensure the safety and well being of the elderly population or those suffering from an age-related illness such as Alzheimer's or dementia and the reporting and investigation requirements for institutional abuse.

II. Definitions

- A. **Abuse**: *The sustaining of any physical pain or injury as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or malicious act by a person who has temporary or permanent custody of an individual.*
- B. **Neglect**: *The willful deprivation of food, clothing, essential medical treatment, or shelter by a care giver.*
- C. **Institution**: *Nursing home, hospital, or assisted living center regardless of the number of people registered.*

III. Reporting Requirements (CALEA 42.2.2)

- A. The initial responding officer will conduct a thorough **preliminary investigation of any reported case of elder or institutional abuse** and will prepare a detailed event report.
- B. **Visible Injuries**
Any visible injuries to the victim incurred as a result of the abuse will be photographed and relevant physical evidence will be collected.

C. *The responding officer will immediately notify the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) if an on-scene arrest is made or the victim sustained serious injury. An investigator may respond and will be responsible for follow-up investigation (See FC 611, "Follow-up Investigation Responsibility").*

D. *A copy of the event report will be faxed to the DVU by the end of the reporting officer's tour of duty. The Investigative Services Bureau copy of the report will be sent along with any photographs to the DVU.*

IV. Follow-Up Investigation (CALEA 42.2.3)

Follow-up investigation will be the responsibility of the DVU. The DVU will be responsible for sending a copy of the event report to the following agencies:

1. *State's Attorney's Office.*
2. *Health and Human Services (HHS), Licensure and Regulatory Services.*
3. *Nursing Home Ombudsman (if in a facility).*
4. *Adult Protective Services, if applicable.*

V. Notification Requirements

A. *If the abuse occurred at a nursing home/assisted living center, the responding officer will contact the Nursing Home Ombudsman Coordinator, HHS, at (240) 777-3369 during normal business hours. If after hours or on weekends, a message can be left on the voice mail.*

B. *Officers investigating cases of non-institutional abuse (e.g., those within a private home, suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation) will notify the Adult Protective Services, HHS, at (240) 777-3300. A copy of any associated event report should be faxed to the DVU.*

C. *The DVU will be responsible for providing the event report to the Ombudsman Coordinator.*

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VI. **Proponent Unit:** ISB Administration

VII. **Cancellation**

*This directive cancels Function Code 672,
dated 08-24-00.*

Charles A. Moose, Ph.D.
Chief of Police


